

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Donald K. Sherman serves as CREW's Senior Vice President and Chief Counsel, and previously served as its Deputy Director. Prior to joining CREW, Sherman served in various roles in the House, Senate, and the Executive Branch including as Special Assistant to the President for Racial and Economic Justice at the White House, Senior Counsel to Ranking Member Claire McCaskill on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and Chief Oversight Counsel to the late Rep. Elijah Cummings, then-Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Sherman was also Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel for Oversight and Investigations in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Sherman began his career on Capitol Hill as counsel on the House Ethics Committee where he investigated alleged ethical violations by Members of Congress and staff. Sherman also practiced law in the Washington, DC office of Crowell & Moring, LLP and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Neil E. Kravitz of the District of Columbia Superior Court. Sherman graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown University with a degree in American Studies and earned his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

EXPERIENCE

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON, Washington, DC

Senior Vice President and Chief Counsel

Nov. 2021 - Present

Deputy Director

June 2018 to Feb. 2021

- Part of senior leadership team managing 30-person government ethics and democracy reform watchdog organization including: legal, policy, and communications strategy; staff recruitment, evaluation, and retention; budgeting, financial management, and fundraising; board relations; and office operations.
- Draft, develop, and edit reports and legal complaints regarding enforcement of federal ethics, transparency, and campaign finance laws.
- Represent the organization with stakeholders in the government ethics and democracy reform community including donors, congressional leaders, government agencies, legal experts, and other non-profit organizations.

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, DC

Special Assistant to the President for Racial and Economic Justice

Feb. 2021 to Oct. 2021

- Policy advisor to the President responsible for development and implementation of racial, economic, and environmental justice initiatives including managing whole of government effort to advance equity and support for underserved communities.
- Built support from and managed relationships with stakeholders in the civil rights, philanthropic, and advocacy communities to advance White House racial equity and LGBTQI+ equality goals in domestic and foreign policy.

HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (HSGAC), U.S.

SENATE, Washington, DC

Senior Counsel

Jan. 2017 to June 2018

- Managed Democratic Committee staff and advised Ranking Member Claire McCaskill (D-MO) in vetting all presidentially appointed nominees before the Committee including cabinet and subcabinet positions at the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies, Inspectors General, and District of Columbia judges.
- Managed legislative and investigative staff on Committee mark-ups and floor votes for all Committee nominees.

- Lead counsel on Committee investigations and hearings on ethics, homeland security, and transportation issues.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL (OGC), U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), Washington, DC

Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel

Oct. 2016 to Jan. 2017

- Assisted the Acting General Counsel in management and strategic planning and served as liaison between OGC leadership, OGC staff, HUD leadership and external government and non-governmental partners.
- Served as lead counsel on HUD OGC priority initiatives such as transition planning, external communications, staff development, and employee engagement efforts including chairing the Employee Satisfaction Working Group.
- Conducted legal review of documents for Departmental clearance including regulations and inter-agency memos.

Senior Counsel for Oversight and Investigations

May 2015 to Sep. 2016

- Advised Department senior management including the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in responding to oversight engagements from Congress, the Office of the Inspector General, as well as local and state governments including more than 50 congressional hearings, briefings, and transcribed interviews.
- Managed 11 OGC staff in responding to oversight investigations including monitoring deadlines and negotiating with congressional staff regarding document productions, briefing and hearing requests, and subpoenas.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC

Chief Oversight Counsel

Apr. 2014 to May 2015

Deputy Chief Counsel

Jan. 2014 to Apr. 2014

- Managed Democratic Committee staff in investigations initiated by Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) including Middle Class Prosperity Project with Sen. Elizabeth Warren to address challenges facing working families.
- Organized bipartisan forums on issues such as criminal justice reform and access to education including vetting panelists, outreach with external stakeholders, as well as drafting inquiry letters, reports, and press statements.
- Developed training and implemented best practices for Committee staff in investigation management, document review as well as preparation for hearings, transcribed interviews, and depositions.

Counsel

Jan. 2011 to Jan. 2014

- Investigative counsel to the Ranking Member responsible for drafting inquiry letters and reports, reviewing documents, and briefing Members and staff in such areas as labor disputes, government operations, and tax law.
- Managed hearing preparation and advised Committee Members on such issues as renewable energy, financial services, and government contracting, including drafting Member statements, question lines, and memoranda.
- Lead counsel on more than 40 and second-chair on more than 45 transcribed interviews of Committee witnesses.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE), Washington DC

Counsel

July 2009 to Dec. 2011

- Led investigations regarding alleged violations of House rules and other applicable standards of official conduct.
- Briefed Committee Members on case facts, applicable legal and ethical standards, and investigative strategy.

- Reviewed financial disclosure statements and advised Members and staff on compliance with House rules.

CROWELL & MORING, LLP, Washington, DC

Associate

Sep. 2007 to July 2009

- Advised clients and drafted motions, memoranda, and discovery responses in complex state and federal litigation.
- Pro bono service as guardian *ad litem* responsible for negotiating settlement agreement in child custody disputes.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington DC

Law Clerk

Sep. 2006 to Sep. 2007

- Conducted legal research and managed case docket for the Honorable Neal E. Kravitz, Associate Judge.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS

Donald K. Sherman, The Hill, “Congress should prioritize diversity so government reflects Americans”, Jul. 9, 2018

<https://thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/396106-congress-should-prioritize-diversity-so-government-reflects-americans>

Donald K. Sherman, *Comment Submitted to the House Committee on Ethics in Response to Statement of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics Regarding the Establishment of a Working Group*, Jul. 11, 2019,

<https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/2019/07/CREW-HEC-regulation-comment1.pdf>

Donald K. Sherman, *Supplemental Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Ethics*, Aug. 13, 2019,

<https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/2019/08/CREW-HEC-Supplemental-Response-8-13-19-1.pdf>

Donald K. Sherman, New York Daily News, *For Democrats, A Self-Funded Candidate is Not the Answer*, Feb. 3,

2020, <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-for-democrats-self-funded-candidate-not-the-answer-20200203-z3f4q4bcezcldaspqf3qlsfvd4-story.html>

Donald K. Sherman, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, *HHS hasn’t had an IG in 9 months. Coronavirus makes the vacancy a public health risk*, Mar. 13, 2020, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/reports-investigations/crew-investigations/hhs-inspector-general-coronavirus-vacancy/>

Donald K. Sherman, Just Security, *Congress Should Take Steps to Protect the Independence of Inspectors General*, April

17, 2020, <https://www.justsecurity.org/69707/congress-should-take-steps-to-protect-the-independence-of-inspectors-general/>

Donald K. Sherman, Just Security, Oct. 14, 2020, *Good Governance Paper No. 1: The Hatch Act Ban on Political Use of Government Resources*, <https://www.justsecurity.org/72849/good-governance-paper-no-1-the-hatch-act-ban-on-political-use-of-government-resources/>

Donald K. Sherman, *Statement for the Record Submitted to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations Hearing on The Elements of Presidential Transitions*, Dec. 10, 2020,

<https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CREW-Statement-for-the-Record-COR-Gov-Ops-12-10-2020.pdf>

Donald K. Sherman, *Statement for the Record Submitted to the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on The Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Hearing on “Voting Rights and Continuing Threats to Democracy”*, Jan. 20,

2022, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/CREW-HJC-Voter-Suppression-2-1-22.pdf>

SELECTED TEACHING AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Georgetown University Law Center, Adjunct Professor of Law, *J.D. Externship Seminar* 2019 to 2020
Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Instructor, *Congressional Oversight Bootcamp* Oct. 2019

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DC Lawyers for Youth, Washington, DC, Board of Directors, Co-Founder, Former Chair 2007-2017

- Developed policy proposals and resources supporting progressive juvenile justice reform and youth programs.

DC Vote, Washington, DC, Board of Directors, Treasurer 2007-2013

- Non-profit organization dedicated to bringing full voting representation in Congress to the District of Columbia.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC, J.D., May 2006

Georgetown University, Washington, DC, B.A. *cum laude* in American Studies, May 2002